

Are You Looking for a Good Place to Live?

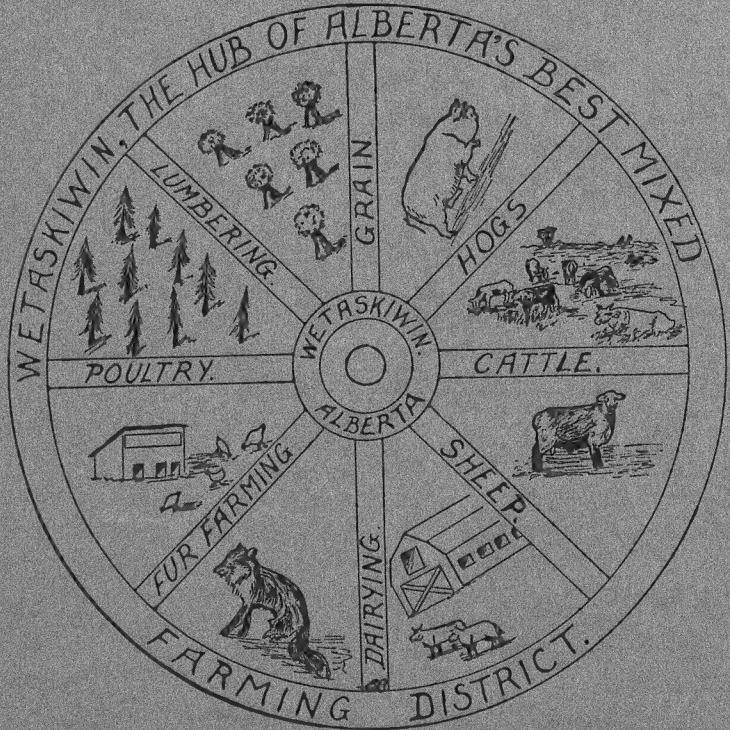


**WETASKIWIN**  
**ALBERTA, CANADA**

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THE HUB OF A  
FAMOUS MIXED FARMING DISTRICT

Issued by the Wetaskiwin Board of Trade



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## Foreword



THE Wetaskiwin Board of Trade is an organization, whose membership is made up of the business men, citizens and farmers of Wetaskiwin and the surrounding District. This booklet is published by the Board to supply reliable information regarding general conditions here.

If you are looking for an ideal location for your future home, you will do well to consider the advantages which the Wetaskiwin District has to offer.

Rich, well watered soil, splendid marketing facilities, a flour mill, six elevators, stock yards, two creameries, a good railway service, modern schools and churches and a hospital; also a 24-hour 'phone service with rural connections.

Although this district, like all others, has its years of depression and unfavorable seasons, total crop failures here are unknown.

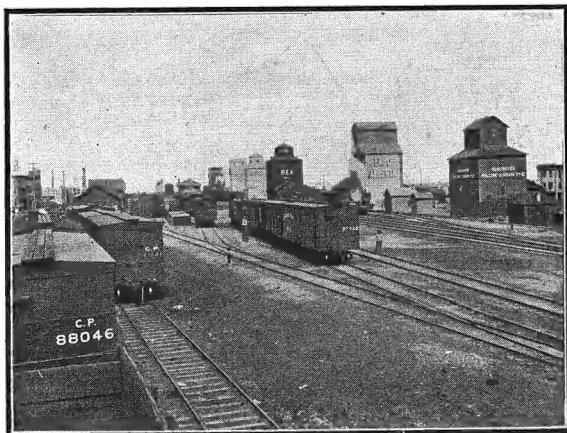
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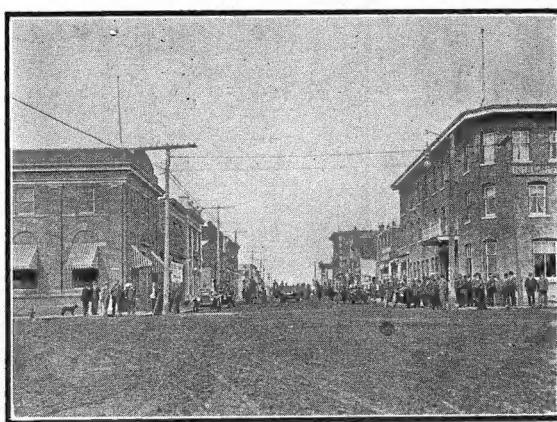
## *City of Wetaskiwin*

WETASKIWIN is located 42 miles south of Edmonton, the Capital of the Province of Alberta, on the Calgary and Edmonton branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is also the Western Divisional Point of the Canadian Pacific Railway Branch line from Saskatoon. Settlers are assured of good railroad connections in every direction, and excellent transportation facilities to the markets of the world for the grain and livestock produced on its fertile lands.

The Dominion Government, together with the railway companies, and private capital, has provided terminal elevator facilities at Port Arthur and Fort William on the Great Lakes, at Churchill on Hudson's Bay, at Montreal, Quebec, and St.

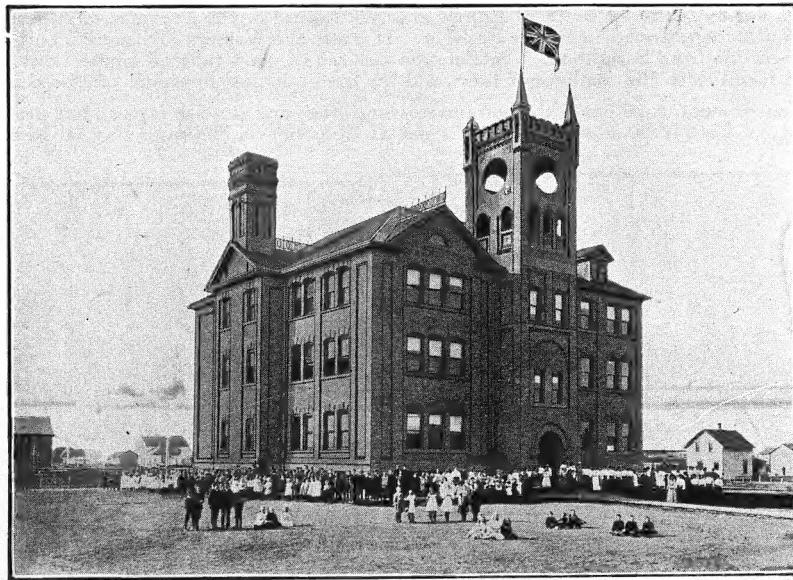


RAILWAY YARD AND ELEVATORS



BUSINESS SECTION

John on the Atlantic Coast, and at Vancouver, Victoria, and Prince Rupert on the Pacific Coast, to enable western grain and livestock to be efficiently and safely transported to all parts of the world at the lowest possible cost.



ONE OF WETASKIWIN'S GOOD EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

A glance at the map will show that Wetaskiwin has wonderful possibilities as a railroad centre should the Saskatoon Wetaskiwin Branch line of the Canadian Pacific Railway be extended westward, as is hopefully anticipated.

Since its incorporation as a City in the year 1906, the City of Wetaskiwin has shown a steady and orderly growth brought about by the development of its rich surrounding lands. It has had its youthful enthusiasms, but its public finances are now in excellent shape to cope with the increasing demands of a growing community.

Day-and-night 'phone service with extensive rural and long distance connections brings even Continental Europe to its doors. The City has a 25-bed Hospital, a Public Library, two modern Public Schools, a Separate School, fifteen Churches, a Dominion Public Building, which houses the Post Office and the Soldiers' Settlement Office, a Court House to serve the Wetaskiwin Judicial District, and a Drill Hall (Wetaskiwin being Regimental Headquarters for the North Alberta Regiment).

The City's light and power plant, also its water supply, are now operated by the Calgary Power Company, Ltd., which gives a 24-hour service at low cost. Adequate fire fighting apparatus safeguards the City.

Six grain elevators and a flour mill of 100 barrel daily capacity, two creameries run on a co-operative basis, two weekly newspapers, the "Wetaskiwin Times" and the "Wetaskiwin Free Press," three chartered Banks, and splendid Hotel accommodation will be found here.

The Social and Recreational facilities are excellent and include an Exhibition Ground, a Public Park, a large covered Curling Rink, a Skating Rink, a Picture Theatre, equipped with "Talkies," a Bowling Green, Tennis Courts, and a Nine-hole Golf Course. Several fraternal societies and service clubs have large memberships, meeting regularly in comfortable quarters. These include the Kiwanis Club, B.P.O.E., L.O.O.M., Masonic Order, I.O.O.F., L.O.L., with ladies' affiliated societies.

The professions are well represented with resident Physicians and Surgeons, Dentists, and Lawyers, etc. The Arts are looked after by a number of Music and Vocal Teachers.

All lines of business required in the marketing centre of a thriving agricultural district will be found in Wetaskiwin, while facilities for the quick repair and replacement of agricultural machinery and automobiles are available at all times.

Wetaskiwin can supply the farmer and settler with every requisite for the farm and home, and offers excellent facilities for the speedy and economical marketing of his grain, livestock and dairy produce.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF WETASKIWIN

*Photo by Walin Studio, Wetaskiwin*

## *Soil and Topography*

THE country surrounding Wetaskiwin is slightly undulating, and parklike in its natural beauty, particularly to the north and west. It is not a flat, bare prairie, devoid of trees, but affords many a charming vista, and delightful landscape as you travel its roads. The uncultivated lands are covered with a rich growth of native grass, and vary from open sections suitable for tractor farming, to sections covered with light willow scrub and poplar bluffs. There are numerous small streams and lakes, and water is everywhere readily obtainable.

The soil consists of a rich black loam, with clay subsoil, varying from 6 to 24 inches in depth. There is almost a total abstinence of alkali and hardpan. In an average season there is adequate moisture for growing crops and the clay subsoil conserves the moisture on well cultivated land.

Our soil has produced crops that have made the Wetaskiwin District famous for the yield and quality of the grain it produces.

By reason of its fertile soil, and good average rainfall, this district is admirably adapted to the growing of pure seed grain, and Wetaskiwin farmers enjoy an enviable reputation and net handsome returns for the purebred seed produced by them.

Mr. Nels Linden, President for 1930 of The Alberta Branch Canadian Seed Growers' Association, farms a few miles east of Wetaskiwin, and his winnings at Chicago and Toronto are dealt with elsewhere in this pamphlet.

Mr. Gus Elgert won the Province of Alberta's Standing Field Crop Competition in 1929 for the best standing field of wheat in the whole province, and other local farmers have won distinction at the larger shows.

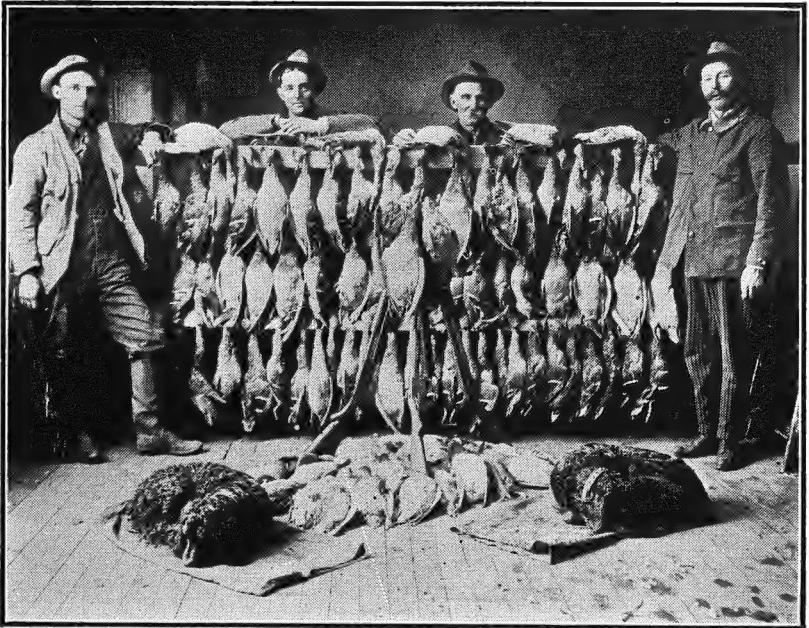
Our grain prizes prove the quality of our soil.

## *Settlement of the District*

THE settlers of the Wetaskiwin District are largely Scandinavians, Americans, Germans, Canadians and British, and are nearly all English speaking.

Special transportation rates for settlers and their livestock and effects may be obtained through the Canadian Immigration Agents in Great Britain, the United States, and in Eastern Canada. Facilities for the convenient unloading of the newcomers' cars will be found at the Canadian Pacific Railway yards at Wetaskiwin.

Every part of the district is linked up with good roads and extension rural telephone connections, so that new settlers need have no fear of loneliness or isolation. Fine gravelled roads extend from Wetaskiwin to Edmonton on the north and south to the International Boundary. Also in an easterly direction from Wetaskiwin to the Saskatchewan border. Other gravelled roads are contemplated or are already in course of construction.



REWARD OF A GOOD DAY'S HUNTING

[ E I G H T ]

## *Climate*

**A**S a general rule the winter snow disappears in March or early April. Seeding operations commence about the middle of April and are general at the end of that month. Harvesting is usually under way by the middle of August. Early frost and fall weather may be looked for in September, but that month and October are two of the most pleasant of the year. Winter comes as a rule about the 1st of November, although open Falls (or Indian summers) lasting until Christmas, are not uncommon. The snowfall is not heavy in this part of Alberta, and automobiles are operated most of the winter.

The long days and short cool nights during the growing season is one reason why grain matures so quickly in Alberta and reaches the high standard of perfection.

The winters, although cold at times, are not unduly severe, and are brighter and more invigorating than those of Eastern Districts.

The annual precipitation is adequate, averaging 19-22 inches and occurs mainly during the months of May, June and July when most needed.

The year round the climate in Alberta is more pleasant and healthful than that of most countries of the world.

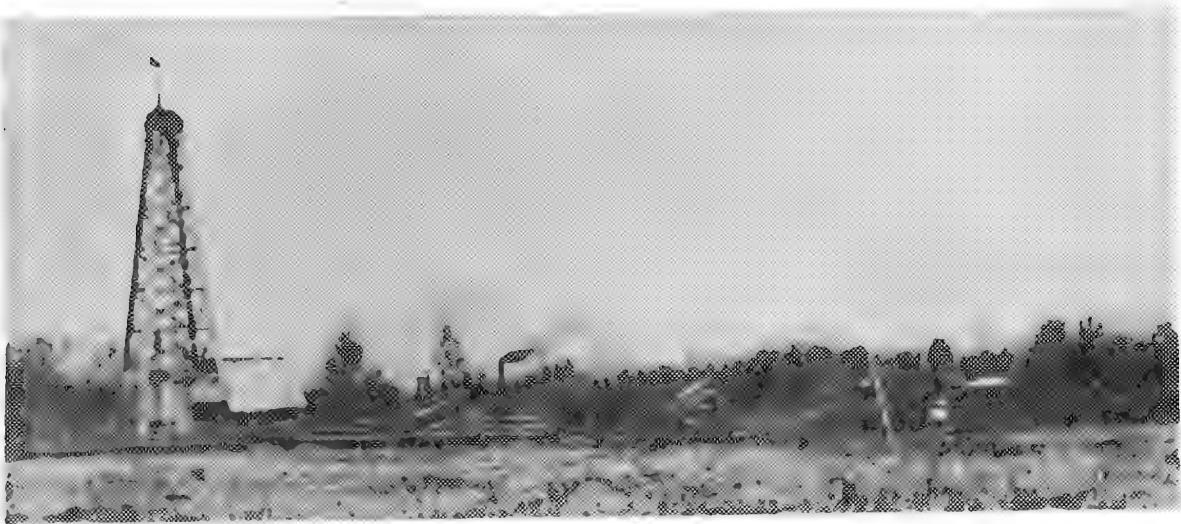
The altitude of Wetaskiwin is 2,480 feet above sea-level.

## *Recreation*

**W**ITHIN easy reach of all parts of the Wetaskiwin District are numerous beautiful lakes which afford ideal summer recreation grounds, some being stocked with fish of various kinds. Visitors may thus enjoy good sport and at the same time secure a welcome addition to their food supply.

Two of the most beautiful lakes in the Province of Alberta are Pigeon Lake and Battle Lake. The former is 26 miles west of Wetaskiwin and the latter 35 miles west. Pigeon Lake is famous for its natural beauty, and for its wonderful bathing beaches, which are absolutely safe for children as well as adults. Splendid fishing may be obtained in both Pigeon Lake and Battle Lake. Their shores are heavily timbered and are famous beauty spots in a Province which is richly endowed with Nature's charms.

Excellent shooting may be enjoyed in the fall months. Ducks, prairie chicken, and Hungarian partridge are plentiful, and may be secured throughout the district, while deer, moose, and bear may be found about 50 miles west of Wetaskiwin by those who desire to hunt big game.



DRILLING OPERATIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN NEAR WETASKIWIN, AS THE ABOVE OIL DERRICK SHOWS

[ T E N ]

## *General Information for Intending Settlers*

MANY intending settlers are anxious to know if it is advisable to bring in their own livestock and machinery, etc., provided they are now living within a reasonable distance of Wetaskiwin. If you have a good local market and can sell to advantage, do so, and re-purchase here, as equipment may be bought at reasonable prices. Lumber can be purchased at low cost, and rough lumber is obtained at a number of local mills about 30 miles west of Wetaskiwin. Prices for breaking land run from \$5.00 to \$8.00 per acre, according to the class of the land to be broken. The best season for breaking is May, June and July. The farming community here is alert to the danger of noxious weeds, and inspectors are appointed by the Government and municipalities to see that the regulations governing weed control are enforced.

A few miles west of Wetaskiwin there is an oil bearing strata, and drilling operations are being undertaken in an earnest endeavor to locate producing wells.

## *Dairying*

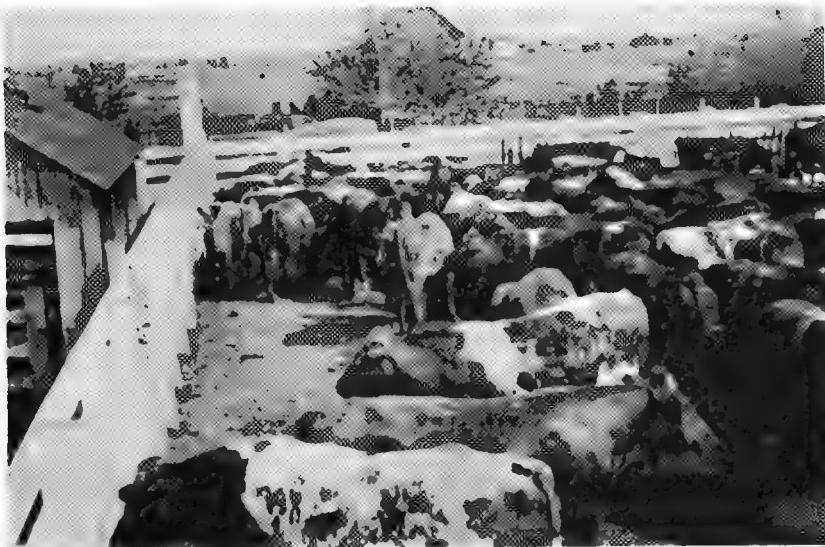
BING centrally located in the heart of a famous mixed farming Province, no district is better fitted for dairying than Wetaskiwin. Here is found the richest natural feed and the purest of water, with sufficient shelter to afford adequate protection from summer sun and winter's icy blasts. This is a condition necessary for profitable production. Here you find the farms with well filled mows; the homes of men who are getting the very utmost out of their crops; the homes of thrifty men who are earning a steady income every day in the year from their cream, their livestock and their poultry.

In the City of Wetaskiwin there are two modern well equipped creameries, operated by men who realize that the farmers' satisfaction means the continued success of their business, thereby assuring the dairymen of the district the best possible returns for their labor and investment.

These creameries have won many awards against strong Provincial and Dominion competition with their butter exhibits and the Wetaskiwin Creamery Co. Ltd. has also scored many successes with their cheese.

During the year 1929, over three hundred tons of creamery butter and over forty tons of cheese were exported by the two Wetaskiwin creameries.

An annual sale of dairy cattle is held in Wetaskiwin, which enables farmers specializing in dairying, to procure the best stock.



SCENE IN WETASKIWIN STOCKYARDS

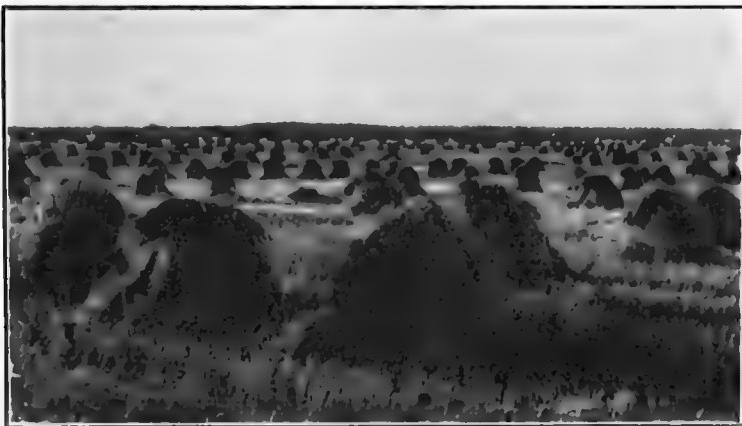
The following is the yield obtained from one quarter section (160 acres) a few miles west of Wetaskiwin during 1930  
950 bushels wheat, 576 bushels rye, 510 bushels barley, 1,465 bushels oats. In addition to this, he pastured fifteen head of  
cattle, and four horses. In January last, he sold \$223.80 worth, and in July \$346.50 of hogs. He has on hand, nineteen hogs,  
which will be ready for market in December, and he also put up forty tons of hay.



HIGH CLASS DAIRYING STOCK RAISED IN THE WETASKIWIN DISTRICT  
[ THIRTEEN ]

## *Apriariam*

There are several farmers keeping bees at the present time. Although this is not a new industry here, great impetus has been given to it lately by the provincial government, who realize the value of this product. The farmers who have become interested and found it is a very profitable side line, with a very small expenditure of labor.



NOTE THE HEAVY YIELD IN THIS FIELD

## *Fishing*

Several of the large lakes in the vicinity are well stocked with fish. One hundred and fifty thousand pounds of white fish are taken annually from Pigeon Lake and shipped to Chicago and eastern markets. Battle and Buck Lakes provide excellent fishing for domestic purposes.

## *Yield of Grain*

**A**BOUT 50% of our crop is wheat. The average for the past ten years is 25 bushels per acre, but many farmers have done considerably better than this. The average for oats during the past season was 50 bushels per acre. The average for barley runs about 35 bushels per acre.

Good seed, sown in our rich soil, and properly cultivated, will give big returns.

## *Vegetables and Fruits*

**V**EGETABLES grow to perfection in this district. Our potatoes are famous. Lettuce, onions, peas, beans, turnips, carrots, beets, and cabbages give abundant yields of excellent quality. Potato spraying is not necessary.

Berries and currants grow well in the Wetaskiwin district, while wild fruits such as pin-cherries, choke-cherries, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries and saskatoons grow in abundance on the prairie lands.

## *Farm Lands*

**T**HREE is still good raw land obtainable in the Wetaskiwin District that can be purchased at a price from \$8 to \$15 per acre in parcels of quarter sections (one hundred and sixty acres), half sections and sections. The extension of the Lacombe North-Western Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway through the district sixty miles west of Wetaskiwin during the past two or three years has brought improved transportation facilities to a large acreage of land which was formerly poorly served. Reasonable terms are given purchasers of land. The Canadian Pacific Railway give as long as 24 years to settlers with small means, thereby enabling them to commence farming operations without delay. The Hudson's Bay Company also give extended terms to purchasers of their farm lands.

Improved farms may be purchased from the owners direct or through local real estate agents. Prices of improved farms vary according to the character of buildings, nearness to town, and amount of land under cultivation, from \$20 to \$50 per acre.

The Wetaskiwin district is undergoing steady development, and the tendency will be for the land you purchase to increase in value.



AN ILLUSTRATION OF ONE OF WETASKIWIN'S OAT FIELDS TAKEN IN JULY, 1930

Reading from right to left are: DOCTOR NEWTON, DEAN HOWES, NELS LINDEN, CHIEF CONSTABLE KINGZETT, and LIEUT.  
COLONEL GODFREY BAKER, Secretary Board of Trade

## *Ideal District for Stock and Poultry*

THE Wetaskiwin district is admirably adapted for raising horses and cattle. They thrive well and the cost of feeding in summer is very small. Pasture land is good and plentiful at low cost. During the greater part of the winter months they have outdoor feeding at the oat or wheat straw stacks, and generally carry into the spring in good condition.

There are many outstanding herds of cattle in the Wetaskiwin district, mainly Shorthorn, Polled Angus, Hereford, Ayrshires and Jerseys. Horses are mostly of the Clyde, Shire and Percheron breeds.

Sheep farming has become very popular and productive with many of the farmers and there are now several large flocks in the district; it is a very profitable side line. The fleeces are now handled by the Canadian Wool Growers' Co-operative Association and there is a good market with fairly steady prices for lamb and mutton.

Wetaskiwin is fast becoming a very important centre for all kinds of poultry raising, besides the local shippers, the Alberta Poultry Pool collects and ships large quantities of poultry and eggs and in the fall sends a special staff to collect and ship the turkeys, which are raised in large quantities, to the Eastern markets of Montreal and New York by the car load. There is also a good and constant demand for ducks and geese, both of which are popular and profitable on many of the farms.

The exports from Wetaskiwin in 1929 include about 30,000 hogs valued at over \$500,000, 310 tons of creamery butter, and over 40 tons of cheese, the products of two modern creameries; at least four carloads of dressed turkeys, three car loads of dressed fowl, and ten car loads of eggs. The exports for 1930 will greatly exceed these figures.





ONE OF THE PROSPEROUS FARMS OF WHICH THERE ARE MANY FOUND HERE  
THE OWNER OF THIS FARM WAS RECENTLY AWARDED THE DEGREE OF MASTER FARMER, ACCOMPANIED BY A GOLD MEDAL.

## *Athletics*

WETASKIWIN has always been prominent in athletics, and followers of baseball, basketball, golf, curling, bowling and tennis all have active clubs. The Golf Club has a good nine-hole course with a membership of over 100. The Curling Club also has a large membership, and is served by a covered rink.

Dancing is enjoyed by many, and the Pal-O-Mine and the Elks' Hall have floors which will compare favorably with the accommodation provided in the larger cities.

## *Mixed Farming*

WHILE it is true that the Wetaskiwin District is an excellent locality for the growing of heavy crops of grain of good quality, nevertheless it is as an ideal mixed farming district that it claims recognition by those seeking a location for a new farm home. Those engaged in stock raising, dairying, and poultry farming, have almost uniformly been successful. The steady increase of shipments of butter, eggs, poultry and livestock is the best proof of the soundness of this method of farming.

The Wetaskiwin District, by reason of its forested area to the west, is always assured of sufficient rainfall for the growth of fodder crops which are so important to the dairyman and stockraiser, and excellent yields of oats, barley, and other coarse grains assure the feeder of ample supplies at prices that will allow a profit to both grower and stockman. Root crops yield abundantly, and winter well if properly protected from frost. In parts of the district where raw land is available, there is an abundant growth of grass for hay and grazing. Water is obtainable everywhere.

The farmers of the Wetaskiwin District are organized in Pools and U.F.A. Locals to secure every possible advantage in the marketing of their crops, livestock and produce, and with a splendid railway system and good highways passing through the district in every direction that grain and produce can be readily shipped to any terminal or market.

The Wetaskiwin District offers intending settlers a sure reward for industry and safety for the intelligent investment of capital.

Make your home here where mixed farming pays. Come to Wetaskiwin where we have a sociable and helpful community, and a district in which we take a just pride.



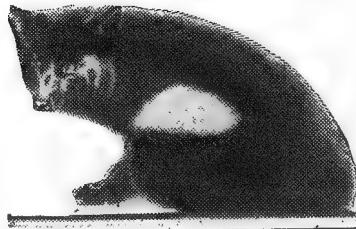
A BEAUTY SPOT AT ONE OF WETASKIWIN'S PICNIC GROUNDS

## *Fur*

**F**UR farming is extensively carried on in the Wetaskiwin District. Messrs. Montgomery Bros.' Silver Fox Farm is one of the largest, and best known for the high quality of the silver foxes they raise on their ranch one mile north of the city limits. The Northern Alberta Silver Fox Co. Ltd. also ranch on an extensive scale, and are rapidly winning a place for themselves as producers of high-grade fur.

Muskrat farming is another profitable source of revenue in this district, and several rat farms are now operating on marshy low-priced land to the west and north of Wetaskiwin.

Many farmers also find this a very profitable side-line and it is quite common to come across farms with twenty or more fox pens and in some cases, besides the foxes, martin and other fur-bearing animals are found.



## *Grain Prizes*

**T**HE prizes won in grain competitions by settlers in this district proves beyond doubt all question of the fertility of our soil. The Wetaskiwin Board of Trade has always shown considerable activity in fostering competitions for the improvement of growing grain and breeding of stock.

Among these activities are:

- The Standing Field Crops Competition.
- The Seed Fair.
- The Junior Hog Raising and Judging Club.
- The Junior Grain Judging Competition.

The following is a partial list only of the winners of exhibits from the Wetaskiwin district:

At the International Livestock Exposition, Grain and Hay Show at Chicago in 1920, Nels Linden was awarded 13th prize in Victory oats. In 1921 he won 12th prize with Leader oats; in 1922, he won 6th prize with Victory oats; in 1927 he won 4th with Banner oats; and the same year was awarded Grand Championship in the Provincial show. In 1928 he won 3rd in the Royal Show in Toronto, Ontario, as well as 3rd at the International Show in Chicago, with his entry of Victory oats. In 1929, at the International Show, he won 5th prize for Banner oats, and Mrs. Linden was awarded 2nd for Victory oats.

In 1929, Gustav Elgert, two miles east of Wetaskiwin, was awarded the Alberta championship for the best field of standing wheat in the Province, in a very keen competition.



PRETTY WATER SCENE WEST OF WETASKIWIN

[ TWENTY-TWO ]

We Invite You to come to Wetaskiwin

THE HUB OF

**ALBERTA'S FAMOUS  
MIXED FARMING DISTRICT**

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**Alberta Owns and Controls its Natural Resources**

**CHOICE FARM LANDS, COAL, OIL, TIMBER  
WATER POWER**

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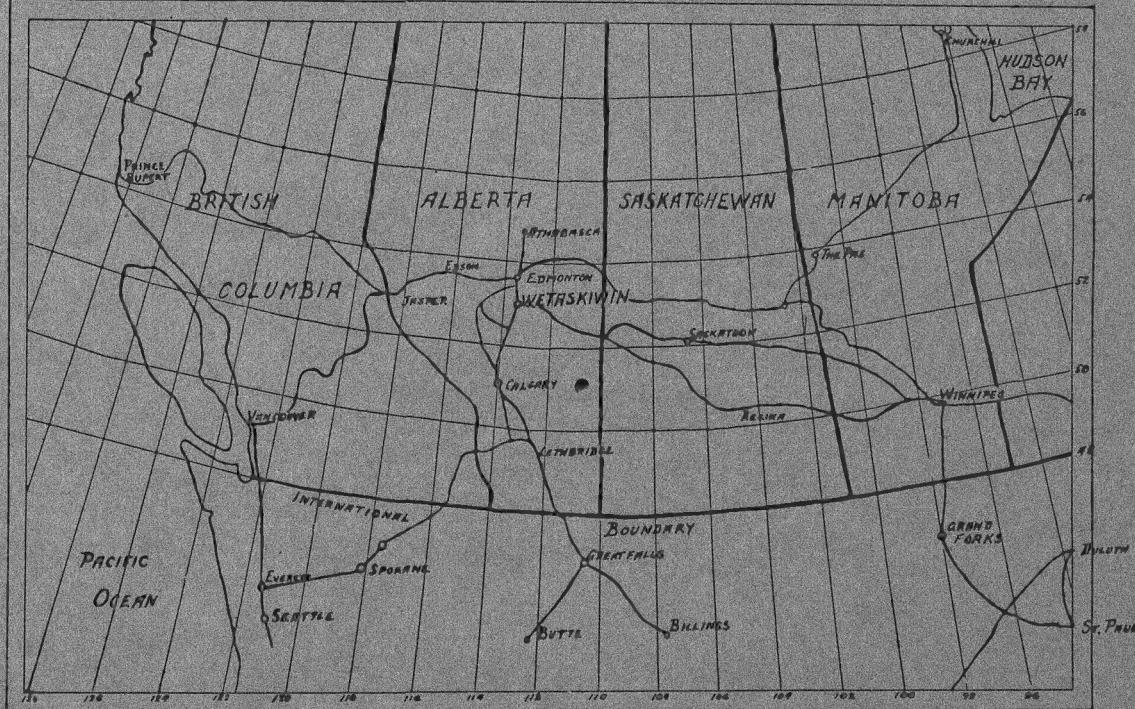
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The map on the opposite page shows the position of Wetaskiwin as compared with the International boundary line and the important railway centres of Western Canada, and the Northwestern States.

The Canadian Pacific Railway lines now radiating from Wetaskiwin are clearly shown as well as the branch line known as the Lacombe North-Western.

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